

REMARKS

With the addition of new claim 19, claims 1 to 19 are currently pending. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 8 to 18 have been allowed. Claim 1 has been amended herein. No new matter has been added. Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and following discussion.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,694,944 to Agama et al. ("Agama").

In order to reject a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the Office must demonstrate that each and every limitation is identically disclosed in a single prior art reference. See Scripps Clinic & Research Foundation v. Genentech, Inc., 18 U.S.P.Q.2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. M.P.E.P. § 2131.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites the step of directly injecting fuel and air into the at least one prechamber. It is submitted that the Agama reference does not disclose this feature. In Agama, the movement of the piston in the prechamber creates a vacuum which draws fuel and air from the main combustion chamber into the prechamber. See Agama, prgh. 26. This vacuum-based drawing of fuel and air does not constitute a direct injection of fuel and air into the prechamber which may, for example, be achieved using a direct intake valve into the prechamber from the intake manifold.

It is accordingly submitted that Agama does not disclose the features of claim 1 or its dependent claims 2-7.

Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 1-7 is therefore respectfully requested.

New claim 19 recites the feature of altering a fuel-air mixture in the at least one prechamber to a rich level prior to compression. Agama also does not disclose this feature as it does not refer in any way to adjusting the stoichiometric balance of fuel and air in the mixture prior to compression.

It is therefore submitted that claim 19 is not anticipated by Agama.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the above, it is believed that claims 1-19 are in allowable condition. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
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